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#### PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S USERS GROUP NEWS LETTER

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#### MEETING

The OCTOBER meeting will be:

on: FRI., OCT 12, 1990

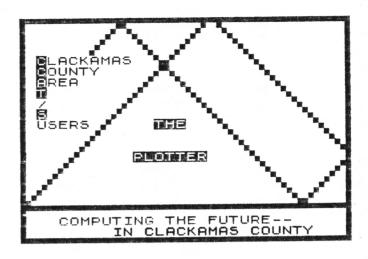
meeting room open at: 7:00 P.M.

in: COMMUNITY ROOM

FAR WEST FEDERAL S & L OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS ISSUE

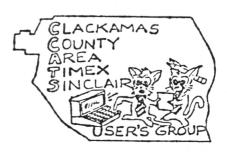
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#### EDITORIAL

We are nearing the end of this year's operations and slowly but surely, change has taken place. Special interest groups haven't taken hold until the recently formed Special Educational Group was formed. Granted, it is not for every member, but that has been the way SIGs have operated. Essentially, some members have found another interest. Probably, a number believe they have worked the 1000, 2068, and QL as far as they want to go with these computers.

Some members have attempted machine language but lacked the desire or interest to pursue this activity. Robotics is about the same way. Probably, the lack of a guiding hand has much to do with it. have some knoweledgeable members in MS DOS which is a great help learning the workings of this language. And, there is a vast storehouse of programs of all kinds to choose from, some high priced (in comparison with what we were willing to pay for 1000 programs), and quite moderate.  $\rightarrow$   $\rightarrow$ 



Considering what we paid for Timex/Sinclair equipment, the cost is quite a bit more, and there is better value. No doubt this hobby has us convinced that the past education warrants better equipment to continue with it.

One problem facing the organization is how to continue a full 8 pages of THE PLOTTER plus 2 or more pages devoted to SEG activity. This Editor has just about run out of "steam" for filling 8 pages. If we can get enough input to fill The Plotter PC Page, that is one thing. However, if that input subtracts from input for the TS computers, then we just cannot make a full TS directed newsletter every month. Just think about it'

## SECRETARY'S SECRET'S

by Jack Armstrong (he's back, again!)

The September meeting of CCAT/S was called to order at 7:30 by Rod Gowen in the absence of the chairman and Jack Armstrong gave a report on the proposed letter to SNUG: typed, but not sent. It will be forwarded to the editor for a proof-check and mailing.

Bill Dunlop introduced a visitor: Dutch Leonard who has a 1000 in the box and is interested in learning how to use the little black door stop. Several members volunteered to give help via phone.

Rod mentioned that he is going to do a review of the Bradford font making software in The Plotter soon. It is a shareware program. His review will be in the PC column Rod is planning.

Terry Graham, club librarian, let it be known that he has loads of info for the 1000 since he uses one and that the library has lots of references for the 1000 as well as software.

D. Lewis reports that the CP/M group is having another swap meet on 13 October, a Saturday, and this writer can verify that there is lots

to see and if you have a PC, there are hardware items galore-CHEAP!

Donald Malm announced that he has invited a speaker for the October meeting: John Meissen who is to give a talk on C Language for the QL.

Rod gave a Treasury report and we are in good shape; during the discussion the club OK'd giving the reports quarterly.

Rod also noted that Mike DiReinzo, author of PIX-FIX, is to do a combo tape featuring the programs published in the Plotter and appended to Rod's Updates disks.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 and the JAZ tutorial was presented.

# BITS & BYTES

by: ROD GOWEN

Heard any TS related news Did you get any information in the mail from other users, user groups, or vendors that may be of interest to our readers? If so, why not share it with us? We need all of the help that we can get. Please send info that you might have to: Gowen, C/O CCAT/S, 1419 1/2 Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, phone in at: 503/655-7484, NOON - 10 PM weekdays. I know that the entire user group will appreciate it! PC PAGE DEBUTS!

AS you can see, we now have a PAGE in THE PLOTTER! We hope that those of you who use IBM compatibles will enjoy this new addition and help us keep it interesting. We also hope that you avid TSers out there will not be put out bу appearance of this new column. are NOT going to abandon our old favorites, we are just trying to keep our membership alert interested and to keep our numbers from dwindling down any further than we have seen them go already. Take a look at it, let us know what you think of it, and, most of all, GIVE A HAND-CONTRIBUTE TO IT!

**>>>** 

## LARKEN NEWS

Larry Kenny called a few days ago and told us that he has delivery of 50 new cartridge boards so that he could match up 35 of them with the 35 controller boards that he already had and have a few carts left over for the folks who other systems (Aerco, Oliger, etc.) and who wanted to use LKDOS. RMG has taken the lion's share of them, 15 systems and 5 carts at this time. Now we can start shipping systems again! We also asked about the promised software, the DTP and the spell-checker. He said that they were not abandoned, just on the "back burner" for the time being. He just opened a new machine shop and is in the process of getting it going. Hopefully he will get back to the software soon.

## SINCLAIR ECHO DIES!-

Due to lack of use, the SINCLAIR USERS UNITE! ECHO which has carried on the backbone of the national FIDOnet for the past months, is officially "off-line" as of 10/01/90. The entire network only managed to generate about messages in 2 weeks in a random sampling. There will be a lot of other echos dropped as well for the same reasons. It takes a bit of work to get an echo going and to get it on the backbone, as we can attest. However, it takes a little help from the users, for whom the echo exists. to keep it alive. Warnings were issued on more than one occasion but to no avail. If you want to talk TS on a BBS, you can still call THE BULL PEN at 503/653-5802 direct. We will still have our local SINCLAIR USERS UNITE! area on the board.

## YOUR WRITER-

is now able to read his mail un-assisted! Not such a big deal, you say? Well, to me it is. I have been unable to read my own mail for a couple of years. All newsletters and mail that arrived had to be read to me or, if typed or printed,

scanned into the computer with a full-page scanner. This reliance on my family members is now ended with the purchase of a machine called the VANTAGE. Designed for low vision folks like myself, this is a closed-14" circuit TV with a resolution black and white monitor. This unit can magnify the smallest print to incredible sizes! I can lay a dime on the bed and turn the knob and 1/4 of the dime FILLS the screen! Not only that, I can press a switch and the image is inverse! Black paper and white ink instead of white paper and black ink. What a wonderful world is this world of printed material! Oh! Why do I need this machine? I have RP (retinitus pigmentosa) a degenerative disease and am slowly losing my sight. This will be a help for time to come. Keep writing, keep reading!

That's it for now!
See you next time! --

## MIKE'S NOTEBOOK

By: Michael J. Di Rienzo

(NOTE: REPRINTING OR REPRODUCING THIS COLUMN WITHOUT THE EXPRESSED WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR IS HEREBY PROHIBITED. FOR PERMISSION, WRITE THE AUTHOR IN CARE OF THIS PUBLICATION.)

One of the "must have" utilities that any self respecting software "hacker" needs in his/her arsenal of tools is a DATA line maker. Although there are several available, especially for the Spectrum ROM, my favorite one appeared in the May 1988 Newsletter of the Capital Area Timex Sinclair Users Group by H.E. Weppler. I have simplified it and moved the CODE to a safe area below BASIC.

This program performs the opposite of POKing CODE into RAM addresses from a DATA line. It will create a user specified DATA line containing CODE extracted from a user specified range of addresses. For example, if you have some machine code, font code, or an ASCII text file located

somewhere in memory, and would like to extract the code and place into DATA statements to use another program, this simple program can be MERGEd or LOADED to do tob. Enter the following program and be sure to RUN line 995% initialize the short machine code. The program will then automatically RUN. You will prompted for a line number to assign the DATA statement. Any line number will do if it is less than 9900. Next INPUT the starting address of the CODE you wish to extract. Lastly you will be prompted for the address of the range of bytes want to extract. I recommend that you don't extract more than bytes at any one time. If you do, editing that DATA line will difficult. If your CODE is more than 150 bytes long then keep track of the line numbers and address ranges and RUN line 9900 until you have all your CODE placed into BASIC lines. The machine code used in this program is completely relocatable. quickly see how this program works, try this: RUN line 9900. the prompt, enter 10 (ENTER). That means we want to make a DATA statement at line 10. The next prompt asks you to enter the starting address of the CODE. Lets extract the CODE from this program which begins at address 24311. the input that number. Next, INPUT end address of the range of addresses we are extracting, ie. 24352 (ENTER). Now you're done. Compare your result with line 9965. If your CODE is lengthy, break it down into several DATA statements by re-RUNning line 9900 several times. Have fun!

#### Happy TIMEXing ...

## "MKDATA"

By Michael J. Di Rienzo

99%% INPUT "Input Line \* to put DATA (<99%%)"; LL
991% INPUT "Input CODE Start add ress "; SS
9915 INPUT "Input CODE End addre ss "; EE
992% LET R\$=STR\$ LL+CHR\$ 228
9925 FOR N=SS TO EE

993Ø LET R\$=R\$+STR\$ PEEK N+","
9935 NEXT N: LET R\$=R\$( TO LEN R
\$-1)
994Ø RANDOMIZE USR 24311
9945 STOP
995Ø FOR N=24311 TO 24352
9955 READ M: POKE N,M: NEXT N
996Ø RUN
9965 DATA 33,19,Ø,9,229,229,42,9
7,92,43,43,2Ø5,99,19,14,82,2Ø5,1
87,44,35,78,35,7Ø,35,229,197,42,89,92,229,2Ø5,187,18,2Ø9,193,225
,237,176,2Ø5,58,14,2Ø1
9999 SAVE "MKDATA" LINE 995Ø

#### PRINTER DRIVERS

Jack Dohany of Redwood City, CA has a group of SUPERDRIVERs designed for the 2068. These drivers are to match user need with needs of the Epson type printer. These drivers are labeled SD1-SD6, SD9-SD11, & SD14.

There are 3 types, SEND, COPY, and MISC. SD1-SD4 are SEND modules, SD5, 6, 9 are COPY modules. SD10 is designed to set up a large REM statement. SD11 is for listing to a large printer in a more elegant manner that the 2068 LLIST. SD14 is called PUTGET and is intended to set up a 32 column screen buffer. COPY modules also require a SEND module to send to the printer, the type depending upon the need.

These drivers will be subjects for some future reviews. At this time SD9 and the SD4 modules will be reviewed as USE9. This offers the control of screen dumps as to density, size, and horizontal position on a Vertical page. positioning requires manually adjusting the printer roller. allowing for the number of lines of blank space before the printing starts.

USE9 was investigated to determine if it would suitably produce a 1:1 screen dump to a large printer. Most screen dump programs operate the printer at 60 dots per inch horizontal and 72 dots per inch vertical. This produces an image 20% over width. In most cases this is of little importance. However, if a circle is to be printed then it is important (unless you like eliptical circles!). Jack combined modules SD4

Continued from page 4 and SD9 into a single module, USE9. This is probably the most powerful combination available.

The menu for SD9 follows. This was printed with the screen COPY, selecting the COPY THE MENU option. Printing was according to the values displayed.

*** SD9 SCR	EEN COPIER ***
parameters Ø: Interface 1: LF Code 2: From-Line 3: To-Line 4: From-Column 5: To-Column 6: Left Margin 7: Horiz Size 8: Density 9: Vert Size 10: Shading 11: Autostop 12: LF Size	Values 2 (Aerco) 0 23 0 31 0 1 5 1 0 0 24/216"
e om	mands
BACKUP prog LOAD screen SAVE screen QUIT	VIEW screen FLIP screen COPY screen HELP

The full screen image of the main menu shows the following available choices:

- O. works with A&J, Aerco, Tasman, Larken and Oliger interfaces
  - printer line feed (Y,N)
- starting line (0-24) is screen line printing starts on
- 3. ending line (0-24) is last screen line to be printed
- 4. starting column (0-31) is first column of screen to be printed
- 5. ending column (0-31) is last column of screen to be printed
- 6. left margin (0-79) locates the start of screen printing
- 7. horizontal size (1-9) is the multiplyer for printing. Using 9 will produce 9 dots for each 1 dot.
- 8. density (0-7) is determined by printer density table
- 9. vertical size (1,2,4) is the multiplyer for number of lines of dots
- 10. shading (Y,N) applies to color conversion to gray
  - 11. auto stop
- 12. LF SIZE in terms of 1/216 inch pitch. Printer must have this capability.

NOTE: under COMMANDS, FLIP means to reverse white and black. In some cases supplementary menus are displayed.

There are many options with USE9 for producing a screen copy of various sizes. The variables are DENSITY, VERTICAL SIZE, HORIZONTAL SIZE, LF SIZE, number of lines to copy, and number of columns to copy. The last 2 can trim an image in both dimensions (print less than a full image).

DENSITY is determined by a number (0-7). The manual for the Epson compatable printer gives this information. My manual gives the information as follows:

MODE	DENSITY	DOTS/INCH	
0	Single	60	
1	Low Speed		
	Double	120	
2	High Speed		
	Double	120	
3	Quad	240	
4		80	
5		72	
-		- 90	

Density will vary the printed width as the screen is made up of copied pixels.

VERTICAL SIZE is selected as 1, 2, and 4. This gives normal, 2 times and 4 times the number of dots and spaces.

HORIZONTAL SIZE provides a wide range of width, from 1 to 9 dots and spaces. There is an interaction with columns to be printed where the number of columns is of the ORIGINAL image.

LF FEED is measured in 1/216 inches, or 1/3 of a dot. The space between each group of dots is not changeable as this is set by the printer head. The space between rows of 8 dots is adjustable. Thus a white line will show if LF FEED is too great, and a heavy black line will print if over-printing is done with too small a LF is selected. Use 24/216 for zero space between rows.

This system of printing graphics with a large printer is different from the one I have used for printing the graph design on the first page of THE PLOTTER. The method programmed by Stan Lempke (UP DATE magazine) reads the pixels in an 8 pixel row and then converts the

results to graphic printing thru using POINT.

Jack's method is more like a programmable screen dump with nice control over the printer. The results are very good. This issue of THE PLOTTER uses this method for producing the graph, with complete control over what and where the printing is done. The only user adjustment required is the start position on the paper. The set up was the same as the SD9 menu values except the left margin was 44 to force the image far to the right.

Printing rate depends on the printer. My Panasonic 1080i printer prints at the rate of 10 inches/second in mode 5.

Considerable trial is required as documentation is limited. Much of this article is from trial and error. A specific result will also require testing to obtain the correct size, placement, etc.

Past issues have provided Jack Dohany's address. Interested readers should write and get current prices and costs for special changes if required to match a specific printer.

Dick Wagner

#### A 2068 PROBLEM

Much has been written about 2068 problems and solutions. I have had an on-going problem with the Oliger equipment. At times the system would not initialize, or the disk drives would not run, or the system would just stop operating. Usually a jiggle of the circuit boards would temporarily get it going again. There are 4 circuit board slots that have 3 boards installed. Sometimes shifting boards around would seem to be the answer.

Recently desparation took hold and all board contacts were again cleaned with new cleaner. The 2068 port board was well cleaned. It worked for a time and then the same old problem. I then considered springing the mother board slot connections to make them more secure but the design of the contacts

limited this action. However, the connector for the 2068 contacts is made differently and the springs will move slightly. A small diameter pin forced behind each phosphor bronze spring moved the spring inward slightly. After a full treatment on this socket, all is again well. The boards, mother board, and other parts can be wiggled and no drop out.

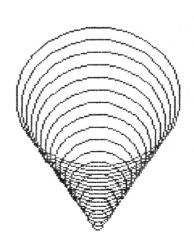
Perhaps there are readers out there who have had trouble with add-ons of various types. This solution may be helpful. I should note that the Oliger board uses a particular connector for connecting to the 2068 board because of the need for long solder pins. The 4 mother board connectors are of different design and are quite secure.

Dick F. Wagner

#### CIRCLES

This cone design for the 2068 makes good use of CIRCLE to generate a design quickly. Users of the 2068 will recall that in line 120 the first number gives the circle center location X axis, the second number is the center Y axis, and the third is the circle radius. The trick is to move the center upward at a rate less than the circles increase in diameter. Try varying the last number in small increments.

100 FOR n=1 TO 50 STEP 3 120 CIRCLE 100,20+2\*n,2+n 130 NEXT n



# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Having missed the September meeting I rather feel at loss for subject matter for this issue. As there is a lack of member input it is a task to assemble enough useful material from sources at my disposal. This issue has material from Rod Gowen, Mike Di Rienzo, Jack Armstrong acting as Secretary, and THE EDITOR. About the usual, it seems.

As I recall, at a recent meeting members attending the SEG indicated a willingness to contribute to the PC PAGE. Come on, guys, lets get some input on what you have learned about using MS DOS. It doesn't a bit of difference if you feel that you are in the elementary stage. Some members have been using MS DOS for some time so they should have a lot of BATCH FILES to contribute. What about some program reviews of programs from Shareware? We need to know about the not-so-useful just as much as the best because of the vast number available. And what about magazines and books you obtained to read up on MS DOS? What are the good ones and not so Give us a review to help others make the right selection.

Having made some trials with various MS DOS programs, it is very apparent that programming is different Sinclair Basic. The TYPE command seems to be the way to display what is in a file except so many programs are in some form of machine language. Changing a file to ASCII format would probably bring up the "English". I understand this can be done with a word processor program. Will someone write an article on how it is done? I have a game program is in readable form. As I recall, it is a whole series of statements somewhat like Superbasic. Probably a bunch batch files. I'll have to get it out again and look at it, now have read up more about batch files.

Readers will probaly notice that I have used Jack Dohany's material several times. Jack is one of the few active 2068 programmers left. He and Mike De Renzo keep pouring out the material. Much of Jack's work is upgrading older programs to meet user requests. He then brings out a new version. Readers of Up Date have another good source of programming, as well as QL programs. There are some fine programmers contributing to this magazine.

I have requested information on the status of SNUG, about newsletter, and subscription rates. This is information members need to make a decission about joining this group. Apparently there is complete change from the operation of several years ago. Jack Armstrong is also sending in a request current information. This is a group we should send gratis copies of THE PLOTTER to. I'm sure we won't get on an exchange basis like other groups.

Some of our subscribers have renewals comming up with this issue. We hope they like our publication enough to fill out the order form.

The old workhorse, the 2068, now has least 4 desk top publishing systems available. Each differently and has special features the others lack. Mike Felerski. Cincinnati, OH, publishes a 2-3 page newsletter on the subject. So far, he has been covering the features of each system. I believe his material will be showing up in Update Computer System magazine 50 he probably will no longer mail to subscribers.

Some time ago I talked to Frank Davis and he reports very good subscription renewals plus new subscribers. This has always been a very "concentrated subject" magazine with lots of thought provoking articles. With the number of writers interested in sending in articles it is sure to continue in this same manner.

# the plotter pc page

by: Rod Goven

This is our new PC users page! How do you like it? We think that it looks pretty good! We are using a program called "Bradford 2" to do the printing for this page. It is shareware and can be downloaded from many BB\$s or from RMC Enterprises. Ask for a demo sometime.

BRADFORD 2 is a "stand-alone" printing utility that lets you do near letter quality printing on your standard dot matrix printer. It allows you to change fonts and sizes almost "at will". This file, like all files to be printed with Bradford 2, is created in an editor or word processor that is capable of saving files in ASCII mode with no printer or other codes imbedded.

If you want to contribute something to be printed in this column, please submit it as an ASCII file on a 360K MS-DOS disk to me at the address on the back of the newsletter, or, if you like, contact me at: 503/655-7484 and we will try to upload it via modem.

If you have a short article, idea or review of some PC/MS-DOS item, we would like to hear from you. We will do this page as long as there is input from our readers and users. We can print only a limited amount of information each month (1-2 pages maximum) and will do our best to make it interesting for you. The best way for you to read something interesting is to let us know what you want to see here and CONTRIBUTE!

We had a pretty good turnout at our September meeting. We started covering basic DOS commands during the PC-SEG meeting. We learned about the INTERNAL and EXTERNAL commands. Those built in to COMMAND.COM and those that are called from another program. We will get deeper into the external commands next time.

## Our next PC-SEG meeting will be:

ON: OCTOBER 12, 1990
A T: 8:30 P M
IN: FAR WEST FEDERAL BANK
OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

We hope to see as many of you there as can make it. AND, if you feel that you have something to offer our PC-SEG, please feel free to send it to me at the address on the outside of this newsletter. Any and all program reviews, product reviews or general interest articles about your experiences with your PC are welcome. Let's keep our newsletter FRESH AND ALIVE!  $\sim$ 

>>>>>

## PC SHAREWARE SOFTWARE LIBRARY

RMG Enterprises has an ever-growing library of shareware software for you to take advantage of. Over 65 megabytes and counting! If you are looking for a word processor, a spreadsheet, a database or perhaps some sort of utility, you will more than likely find it in the collection. At \$3.50 per disk (5.25" or 3.5"), you can't loose! Try the program, and, if you like it and wish to use it continually, just send the registration fee to the author. Just be aware that there are no games in this library. If you want to play games, you'll do better with a Nintendo. If you would like a printed list of the titles in the library, just send an S.A.S.E. (#10) with \$.40 postage to RMG ENTERPRISES at the address on the back of this newsletter.

#### BOOK REVIEW

DOS INSTANT REFERENCE
By Gregory Harvey/Kay Yarborough Nelson

Sybex Prompter Series ISBN 0-89588-477-1 Price-\$7.95/Daltons

This book is my first acquisition to work through the MS DOS (DR DOS) mystery. The manuals are fine but not very handy to use at the computer. This small book (220 pages) is easy to use as a reference. Some 153 pages are devoted to the MS DOS commands while the remainder is in appendix form and gives special attention to BATCH FILES, the CONFIG.SYS FILE, and PARTITIONING YOUR HARD DISK, and a GLOSSARY.

Special features are identifying the version of MS DOS commands covered in each command chapter, the type of command, the syntax applicable, options, examples, how to UNDO the command, and often, NOTES.

Coverage of MS DOS extends to version 3.3 while PC DOS extends to version 3.2. Syntax may vary slightly from manual syntax in order to better show procedure.

Dick Wagner

## CIRCLES From the SINC-LINC library

of QL programs.

Here is a sweet little thing which draws circles in an expanded circle (cone). It is very short so type it in and try it. If you have color try it in mode 8 for greater effect.

100 FOR loop=1 TO 500 STEP 2.99 110 INK 100p/2 120 FILL 1 130 CIRCLE 50+COS(loop)\*(loop/6),50+ SIN(1oop)\*(1oop/6),1oop/24 140 INK 0 150 FILL 0 160 CIRCLE 50+CDS(loop)\*(loop/6).50+ SIN(loop)\*(loop/6),loop/24 170 NEXT loop

#### -NOTICE-

Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of members of the Clackamas County T/S User Group. Meeting minutes carry the consensus of members present at meeting. newsletter nor staff will not be held liable for any damage consequences due to following instructions, or review of products as contained in this newsletter.

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